



Election Modernization Committee

Date: **March 9, 2021**

Time: **7:30-9:00pm**

Location: **Conducted by Remote Participation**

Minutes

Attendance: Adam Badik, Juli Brazile, Greg Dennis, Giovanna DeStefanis, Len Diggins, Walter Horn, Bill Logan, Patti Muldoon, James O'Connor, Maxwell Palmer, Paul Parravano, Juhan Sonin, Jennifer Susse, Lesley Waxman

1. Executive Order on Remote Participation

Jim reviewed the Governor's order on remote participation.

2. Approval or Changes to the Meeting Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

3. New Member Introductions, Giovanna DeStefanis, Len Diggins

We welcomed the new members and did a round of introductions.

4. Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Juli told us about the warrant article to study changing the position of Clerk from an elected to an appointed position. It received a favorable vote by the Finance Committee.

5. Article 26 - Ranked Choice Voting follow-up

We talked about the Ranked Choice Voting warrant article hearing before the Select Board. Greg spoke about the concerns raised at the hearing about the proportional method of electing multiseat offices, and expressed the opinion that with proportionality included, it stood little chance of a positive vote by the Select Board. Jennifer and Juli agreed with that assessment.

Greg recommended we author a statement to the Select Board expressing our support of the winner-take-all / majoritarian approach forwarded by Adam Auster as preferable to No Action. There was discussion as to the merits of this approach.

Walter made a motion to form a subcommittee to revise the statement and send it to the Select Board. Patti seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Greg, Lesley, Jennifer, Giovanna, and Adam volunteered to join the committee.

6. Update on Annual Town Election, Sat. April 10, 8AM-8PM

Juli gave an update on the state of planning around the town election. She said there was not yet word from the Secretary of State's office as to whether they have permission to eliminate the check-out table to improve social distancing.

Adam asked whether the side entrance/exit procedure at Town Hall will still be in effect. Juli said yes because the construction at Town Hall is not yet done. All election workers have been briefed on how to accommodate those with mobility issues at Town Hall.

Paul asked whether the AutoMARK machines will have hand sanitizer next to them. Juli said yes -- there is plenty of PPE leftover from last year's elections to use.

7. Public Comment and or questions

Lesley noted that historic/archival information, dating back to 1940, about the history of proportional ranked choice voting in Cambridge is available online, compiled by Robert Winters.

8. New Business

Greg noted that we should be prepared to put together a report or fact sheet about our warrant article in time for the next meeting.

9. Draft Minutes for Review, Edits and Approval * Tuesday, February 5, 2021

Paul made a motion to approve the minutes. Juli seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

10. Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, we set a next meeting date of March 30, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.